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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/961,218	09/21/2001	Michael E. Brown	016295.0697	4097

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EXAMINER

BHATIA, AJAY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2145

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/961,218

Applicant(s)

BROWN ET AL.

Examiner

Ajay M Bhatia

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/21/2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

1. Claims 1-21 are pending.
2. Claims 1-21 are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
4. The term "unique identifiers" in claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 18 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "unique identifiers" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. Specification define UID as media access control (MAC) address, serial number, service tag or any other suitable UID, using the term "unique identifier" to define itself provides an indefinite definition of the term make it unclear what is a "unique identifier".
5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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6. Claim 10 recites the limitation "the program product of Claim 8" in the 1st line. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is assumed this is a typo and for the purpose of this office action claim 10 will depend from independent claim 9, and claim 11 will continue to depend from claim 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blumenau (U.S. Patent 6,631,442) in view of Solvason (U.S. Patent 6,003,073).

8. For claim 1, Blumenau teaches, a method for automatically naming hosts in a distributed data processing system, the method comprising:

receiving unique identifiers (UIDS) from multiple hosts in communication with a cluster controller; (See Blumenau, Col. 23 lines 40-46)

receiving user input from a first host among the multiple hosts; (See Blumenau, Col. 22 lines 54-60)

in response to receiving the user input from the first host, associating a first host name with the UID for the first host; (See Blumenau, Col. 22 lines 54-67)

receiving user input from a second host among the multiple hosts; and (See Blumenau, Col. 22 lines 54-60)

repeating the operations of receiving replies from hosts, associating host names with UIDs, and causing hosts to produce completion signals, until each of the multiple hosts has been named, such that the user input dictates the order in which host names are assigned to the multiple hosts. (See Blumenau, Col. 22 lines 54-60)

Blumenau fails to teach, in response to receiving the UIDs, causing the multiple hosts to produce ready signals;

after associating the first host name with the UID for the first host, causing the first host to produce a completion signal;

Solvason teaches, in response to receiving the UIDs, causing the multiple hosts to produce ready signals; (See Solvason, Col. 5 lines 8-14)

after associating the first host name with the UID for the first host, causing the first host to produce a completion signal; (See Solvason, Col. 5 lines 14-21)

It would be obvious of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the system of Blumenau with the method of Solvason because Solvason adds the ability to add video across the network during a computer installation and both

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disclose communicate over the network to control devices. (See Solvason, abstract and Col. 2 lines 30-39) and (See Blumenau, Col. 2 lines 61 to Col. 3 line 3)

9. For claim 2, Blumenau-Solvason teaches, the method of claim 1, wherein the operation of associating a first host name with the UID for the first host comprises:

in response to receiving the user input from the first host, transmitting data to the first host; and (See Blumenau, Col. 22 lines 59-67)

after transmitting the data to the first host, receiving a reply from the first host, such that the first host name is associated with the UID for the first host in further response to the reply. (See Blumenau, Col. 23 lines 25-39)

The same motivation that was utilized in the rejection of claim 1, applies equally as well to claim 2.

10. For claim 3, Blumenau-Solvason teaches, the method of claim 2, further comprising:

providing the cluster controller with a host-name index, wherein: (See Blumenau, Col. 23 lines 25-39 and lines 53-62)

the operation of transmitting data to the first host comprises transmitting the host-name index to the first host; (See Blumenau, Col. 22 lines 54-60)

the operation of receiving a reply from the first host comprises receiving an incremented host-name index from the first host; and (See Blumenau, Col. 23 lines 53-60)

the operation of associating a host name with the UID for the first host comprises using the host-name index to generate the host name to be associated with the UID for the first host. (See Blumenau, Col. 22 lines 54-60 and Col. 23 lines 25-39) The same motivation that was utilized in the rejection of claim 2, applies equally as well to claim 3.

11. For claim 8, Blumenau-Solvason teaches, the method of claim 1, wherein the operation of causing the first host to produce a completion signal comprises producing an audible signal to indicate that the first host has been named. The same motivation that was utilized in the rejection of claim 1, applies equally as well to claim 8. (See Solvason, Col. 4 line 67 to Col. 5 line 12)

12. Claims 9, 10, 11, and 15 list all the same elements of claims 1, 2, 3, and 8, but in apparatus form rather than method form. Therefore, the supporting rationale of the rejection to claims 1, 2, 3, and 8 applies equally as well to claim 9, 10, 11, and 15.

13. Claims 16, 17, and 18 list all the same elements of claims 1, 2, and 3, but in system form rather than method form. Therefore, the supporting rationale of the rejection to claims 1, 2, and 3 applies equally as well to claim 16, 17, and 18.

14. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blumenau-Solvason as applied to claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, and 18 above, and further in view of Nixon et al. (U.S. Patent 6,098,116 referred to as Nixon).

15. For claim 4, Blumenau-Solvason teaches, the method of claim 2, further comprising:

providing the cluster controller with a host-name index and a host-name root;
and (See Blumenau, Col. 23 lines 25-39)

causes the multiple hosts to transmit the UIDs to the cluster controller; (See Blumenau, Col. 22 lines 54-60)

receives the index in the data from the cluster controller, increments the index, and transmits the incremented index to the cluster controller in the reply; and (See Blumenau, Col. 23 lines 7-10 and lines 53-60)

the operation of associating a host name with the UID for the first host comprises using the host-name root and the host-name index to generate the host name to be associated with the UID for the first host. (See Blumenau, Col. 23 lines 25-39)

Blumenau-Solvason fails to teach, providing the multiple hosts with auto-naming logic, wherein: and the auto-naming logic

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Nixon teaches, providing the multiple hosts with auto-naming logic, wherein: and the auto-naming logic (See Nixon Col. 31 line 54 to Col. 32 Line 20)

It would be obvious of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the system of Blumenau-Solvason with the method of Nixon because Nixon provides for programming field devices from a remote location removing the need to be at the location of the field device. (See Nixon Col. 2 line 2 to Col. 3 line 3) (See Solvason, abstract and Col. 2 lines 30-39) and (See Blumenau, Col. 2 lines 61 to Col. 3 line 3)

16. Claims 5, 7, 12, 14, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blumenau-Solvason as applied to claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, and 18 above, and further in view of Foster et al. (U.S. Patent 6,378,068 referred to as Foster).

17. For claim 5, Blumenau-Solvason fails to teaches, the method of claim 1, wherein the operation of causing the multiple hosts to produce ready signals comprises activating light emitting diodes (LEDs) on the multiple hosts to indicate that the multiple hosts are ready to be named.

Foster teaches, the method of claim 1, wherein the operation of causing the multiple hosts to produce ready signals comprises activating light emitting diodes (LEDs) on the

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multiple hosts to indicate that the multiple hosts are ready to be named. (See Foster, Col. 52 lines 8-14)

It would be obvious of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the system of Blumenau-Solvason with the method of Foster because Foster provides for the use of a laptop making means for a mobile solution and resuming operation without rebooting. (See Foster Col. 1 lines 19-30) and (See Blumenau, Col. 2 lines 27-43)

18. For claim 7, Blumenau-Solvason fails to teaches, the method of claim 1, wherein the operation of causing the first host to produce a completion signal comprises deactivating a light emitting diode (LED) on the first host.

Foster teaches, the method of claim 1, wherein the operation of causing the first host to produce a completion signal comprises deactivating a light emitting diode (LED) on the first host. (See Foster, Col. 52 lines 14-21)

The same motivation that was utilized in the rejection of claim 5, applies equally as well to claim 7.

19. Claims 12, and 14 list all the same elements of claims 5, and 7, but in apparatus form rather than method form. Therefore, the supporting rationale of the rejection to claims 5, and 7 applies equally as well to claim 12, and 14.

20. Claims 19, and 21 list all the same elements of claims 5, and 7, but in system form rather than method form. Therefore, the supporting rationale of the rejection to claims 5, and 7 applies equally as well to claim 19, and 21.

21. Claims 6, 13, and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blumenau-Solvason as applied to claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, and 18 above, and further in view of Gussin (CD-ROM Professional, August 1, 1995, Volume, 8, Issue 8).

22. For claim 6, Blumenau-Solvason fails to teach, the method of claim 1, wherein the operation of receiving user input from the first host comprises detecting that a disk has been inserted into a disk drive of the first host.

Gussin shows, the method of claim 1, wherein the operation of receiving user input from the first host comprises detecting that a disk has been inserted into a disk drive of the first host. (See Gussin, Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 under the heading Autoplay)

It would be obvious of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the system of Blumenau-Solvason with the methods discussed by Gussin because Gussin discusses the improvements made to the windows over current

versions. (See Blumenau, Col. 3 line 7-16) and (See Gussin, Paragraphs 1-4 at the start of the article)

23. Claim 13 list all the same elements of claim 6, but in apparatus form rather than method form. Therefore, the supporting rationale of the rejection to claims 6 applies equally as well to claim 13.

24. Claim 20 list all the same elements of claims 6, but in system form rather than method form. Therefore, the supporting rationale of the rejection to claims 6 applies equally as well to claim 20.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tawil et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 20020087727) disclose a system of naming devices using the MAC address of the device.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Helliwell (U.S. Patent 6751667) discloses UUID and WWN.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wilson (U.S. Patent 6697875) discloses a database of all the device on the network using IDs.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Muller et al. (U.S. Patent 6256740) discloses the creation of global unique id creation.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Klots et al. (U.S. Patent 6173313) discloses a system of hashing ID of the device connected to the system.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lister et al. (U.S. Patent 6167446) discloses a system that provides name resolution on a network.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Jeffries et al. (U.S. Patent 6009479) discloses a system as devices enter the network they are given a unique id.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Herriot (U.S. Patent 5862331) discloses a system the dynamically binds the address of a computer to a name.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Narita (U.S. Patent 5376751) discloses a system that does autoplay of information on a disk.

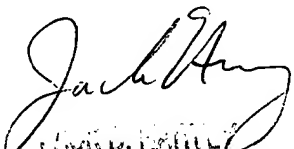
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ajay M Bhatia whose telephone number is (571)-272-3906. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Harvey can be reached on (571)-272-3896. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AB


JACOB H. HARGIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER